
 T H E 5 0 M H z D X B U L L E T I N

 VOLUME #2 (J A N U A R Y 1 9 9 1) ISSUE #2

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 N O R T H A M E R I C A N N E W S

NEWFOUNDLAND (VO1) 6M ACTIVITY: Two new stations active on 6M from Newfoundland are VO1NE and VO1WA. They have worked quite a large number of European stations, but as those that have worked them have probably found out for themselves, neither is listed in any Callbook. So, if you want GN27 confirmed, the addresses are as follows:

QSL INFO: Mr. A. Walsh VO1WA, P.O. Box 652, Marystown, Newfoundland, Canada A0E 2M0

QSL INFO: Mr. J. Pitman VO1NE, P.O. Box 1055, Marystown, Newfoundland, Canada A0E 2M0

Other stations in Newfoundland reported to be active on 6M during the past year are as follows:

GN26 VO1QF Donald Whitty, Box 519, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, Canada A0E 2V0

GN27 VO1EE John Clarke, Box 92, Creston South, Newfoundland, Canada A0E 1K0

GN27 VO1KG Howard Baker, 35 Nungesser Avenue, Gander, Newfoundland, Canada A1V 1M2

GN37 VO1DI Oscar Hierlihy, Box 44, Manuels, Newfoundland, Canada A0A 2Y0

GN37 VO1JN John Norman, 146 University Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1B 1Z5

GN37 VO1MP Augustus Samuelson, 17 Foran Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1E 4E9

GN37 VO1WP Warren Penney, Box 22, Paradise, Newfoundland, Canada A1L 1C4

HH7PV QSL SITUATION: Ted Collins G4UPS reports that Art N2AU informed him on December 31st that he had answered all QSL's for HH7PV. If you still need a confirmation for a contact with Pat HH7PV, Art's address is: Arthur Hubert N2AU, 436 North Geneva Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.

REPORT FROM WP40/1: Edwin Rodriguez WP40/1 (MA FN41) is currently stationed at Otis Air National Guard Base in Eastern Massachusetts and has recently become QRV on 6M with an IC505 at 10 watts and a dipole 20 feet above ground. Ed states that he may have the opportunity in the near future to travel to Guantanamo Bay (KG4) where he holds the call **KG4ER**. He will keep me informed on any such trip and possible 6M operation.

QSL INFO: Edwin Rodriguez, 5647-B Doolittle Avenue, Otis ANGB, Massachusetts 02542

REPORT FROM VE2YB: Gerard St. Louis VE2YB (QUE FN46) who is custodian of the VE2STL beacon on 50.086 MHz, reports that he is currently the only active 6M station in FN46. All others are QRT.

QSL INFO: Gerard St. Louis VE2YB, 1254 Holt, Val Belair, Quebec, Canada GOA 1G0

REPORT FROM WB4WXE: Howard Sine WB4WXE (NY FN23) sends along word that he has written to Jim Polson VE8JP who he worked on 6M several years back when he was QRV from Alaska. VE8JP was VE8BY's neighbor in Yellowknife when both of them were active on the band. Howard will try to find out if Jim still has equipment for 6M and will send along the info to me.

QSL INFO: Howard Sine WB4WXE, 3207 Orion Circle, Rome, New York 13440

REPORT FROM KU9C/2: Steve Wheatley KU9C/2 (NJ FN20) reports that he is the QSL Manager for **XX9JN** who is active on 6M, often working JA stations. He says that he is also willing to help out any 6M DX station with QSL management.

QSL INFO: Steve Wheatley KU9C/2, P.O. Box 5953, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

REPORT FROM W7IDZ: Russ Patrick W7IDZ (WA DN06) sends along the following:

"Shep W7HAH passed the word on to me last weekend that there were going to be some Barium Clouds released. He did not know where or the time although the dates given were: Jan 11, 13, 15, and 24th. I'll be monitoring 28.885 MHz for additional information. I was lucky enough to get into several of these tests in the late 70's and they gave me a 20 minute "E" opening on 6 meters. If I get into one this time, I'll try 2 meter SSB, too. In other news, I heard the United Nations HQ Station 4U1UN via F2 with a good signal into Washington. The operator was so slow in handling QSO's that not very many people had a chance for a new one. I heard later that the schedule for 6M operating was on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Finally, I still need Africa and Europe for WAC on 6 meters. In a year, if the band does not come back this coming November, I'll try EME. ZS5C has already approached me on the subject."

QSL INFO: Russ Patrick W7IDZ, Box 73, Touchet, Washington 99360

REPORT FROM K0US: Dick Gobel K0US (NE EN10) reports that although conditions weren't as good as expected, he managed to work the following new countries during the fall F2 season: ZS6LN, PY0FF, 6W/JA8RWU, ON4KST, and the presently non-allowable for DXCC purposes: 3X1SG. ON4KST was worked on 12-26-90 for country #70. Dick's equipment is a Kenwood TS680S driving a TE Systems amp at 150 watts feeding a Hy-Gain/Telex 6 element at 50'.

QSL INFO: Dr. Richard Gobel K0US, P.O. Box 407, Fairbury, Nebraska 68352

REPORT FROM OX3LX/OZ1DJJ: Bo Christensen OX3LX/OZ1DJJ reports that the OX3VHF beacon is still QRT due to BCI. He is hopeful that the beacon (which is now located in Julianehaab GP60xr) can be activated once again during 1991. Bo also sends along his new address which is given below.

QSL INFO: Bo Christensen, Biens Alle 2, 2300 KBH S, Denmark

REPORT FROM WA5QCP: Richard Kennedy WA5QCP (TX DM61) sends along the following letter:

"Six meters was pretty much of a washout during November 1990 and I am trying to find a reason for the lack of propagation. The only answer I can come up with is solar flare/magnetic storm related. Although they can disrupt communications, it seems that the extra radiation from flares and the ionospheric turbulence from geomagnetic storms helps to increase ionization. There was only one flare and one minor storm during November 1990 compared with 5 flares in 1979, 4 in 1980, 5 in 1981, 3 in 1982, 4 in 1988, and 16 in 1989 (all for November). I've gone back through my WWV solar flux, etc, data back to 1972 (except for sunspot minimum years) and plotted monthly solar flare occurrences for the past two sunspot cycles. In Cycle 21, solar flare activity gradually built-up to a peak in June 1982, then died away over 14 months, then a burst of activity in April and May of 1984. (I do not have the data from August 1984 through August 1988). In Cycle 22, solar flare activity rapidly built-up to a peak in January 1989, held fairly high through the year, then dropped last January. A burst of activity did occur last April/May and a slight rise took place in August with 3 flares. My records show one flare for each of the other months, except two for January.

An isolated burst of flare activity (13 flares recorded) in July 1974, near the end of Cycle 20, a low cycle, apparently brought some South American DX as reported on page 105 of QST for October 1974. Again in 1984, late in Cycle 21, the burst of flare activity seemed to bring more F2 DX, although some of the DX seemed to precede the flare activity in April/May. See pages 68-69 of QST for June 1984 and pages 67-68 of QST for July 1984.

Last May brought the largest monthly flare total of this year and there was also some unusual late-May F2 DX. I worked NI6E/KH6 on an apparent Es-to-F2 link. Others did much better. See August QST, page 71 for activity late last May.

Although a high smoothed sunspot count without solar flares or a high solar flare count during a period of lower smoothed sunspot numbers can bring some 6 meter DX, it seems to require both at the right time of year (usually November) to provide really good band openings. This is in spite of the negative effects of magnetic storms which usually occur within a few days of a major flare. Reports on 28.885 MHz of the MUF being in the 46-47 MHz range indicate it wouldn't have needed too much extra radiation from flares or perhaps the turbulent effects of geomagnetic storms to raise the MUF above 50 MHz."

QSL INFO: Richard Kennedy WA5QCP, 5633 Hemmingway Drive, El Paso, Texas 79924-2422

XE1GRR QSL INFO NEEDED: Several readers have asked me for the QSL information for XE1GRR whose address does not appear in the 1991 Callbook. If anyone has it available, please send it to me for publication.

F C C S A Y S " Y E S " T O N O - C O D E

COMMUNICATOR IS OUT - CODE-FREE TECHNICIAN IS IN!

The following narrative on the new code-free Technician License is from the W5YI REPORT, Volume #13, Issue #1, dated January 1, 1991. Editor: Fred Maia W5YI, P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, Texas 75356-5101:

"Instead of enacting its controversial proposal for a Communicator license, the FCC on December 13th, 1990 removed the 5 WPM Morse Code requirement from the existing Technician Class amateur operator license. Praising amateur radio for its achievements, the five Commissioners voted unanimously for the change. Implementation of the new rules is expected by February 1991.

At the same time, the FCC voted to change Part 97 to include the procedures for exempting handi-capped Novice and Technician hams from the 13 and 20 WPM Morse tests required for upgrading to higher license classes. The 5 WPM Morse test will be continued to be required of all amateurs who desire HF operation.

Current holders of Technician licenses will be "grandfathered", meaning that they will keep all of their current privileges (including HF privileges). After the new rules go into effect, new Technician licensees will receive all amateur privileges above 30 MHz. They may optionally pass a 5 WPM Morse test to obtain the same privileges below 30 MHz enjoyed by Novices and current Technicians.

Technician licensees who pass the 5 WPM test will not receive any new callsign, nor will they have to use a suffix or other special station ID. The new rules will not prescribe an official name for Technicians who have HF privileges. However, FCC staff told us they expect the name "Technician Plus" to be widely used in place of "Technician Plus 5 WPM Morse Code." This is also the name suggested by the No-Code Committee convened by the ARRL to consider a possible code-free amateur license class.

The Technician exam will consist of 55 questions from the current Novice and Technician elements, and will not include 5 proposed special questions about Morse Code's "...utility and tradition." These two examinations may be taken together or one at a time.

The Commission decided to retain the Novice license in order to provide an alternative entry-level opportunity to those who can pass a 5 WPM telegraphy requirement in place of the more comprehensive written exam for the Technician. The Novice examination will continue to be available under the current system. Despite serious problems with fraudulent examinations, the Commission decided not to integrate Novice testing into the three examiner VEC Examining Program at this time. There is thus no change whatsoever in the current Novice testing program."

NOTE: The effective date for code-free Technician license examinations is FEBRUARY 14, 1991.

1991 6 METER BEACON SURVEY: The annual beacon survey I am currently conducting is coming along fine with survey forms arriving in the mail each day. As expected, there has been several changes across the board regarding the operating parameters of beacons currently on the air. To date, the following beacons are **no longer active**: **WABONQ** 50.060, **K6MYC/KH6** 50.063, **WA7ECY** 50.070, **WB2CUS** (NY beacon) 50.077, and **VP5D** 50.100. My return rate is at 35%, however, with many forms being mailed to the South Pacific, it may take some time before a "finalized" 1991 beacon list can be put together.

EUROPEAN NEWS

UK SIX METRE GROUP UPDATE: Ted Collins G4UPS reports that the Group has, since the new committee took over in May 1990, continued to expand. In 6 months the Group has not only attracted 295 new members, but a considerable number of lapsed members have rejoined. The Group recently awarded special achievement certificates to Bob VE1YX, Rick K1JRW, and Pierre HB9QQ for their particular contributions to the world of Six Meters. For information regarding the UK Six Metre Group, write to: Ted Collins G4UPS, 27 Parklands, Hemyock, Devon EX15 3RY England.

UK SIX METRE GROUP CONTEST: This contest held in November 1990 proved to be a huge success with more than 150 members of the Group being involved. Four entries were received from SWL's and quite a few overseas entries were received as well. The full results of this contest will be announced at a later date.

UK SIX METRE GROUP 6X6 AWARD: The UK Six Metre Group now has available the "6X6 AWARD" whereby QSO's with different locator fields, countries, and UK Counties will all count towards the award requirements. The award is available in 6 "grades" where each grade will carry a serialized endorsement which is written onto the certificate. Upgrade applications will result in an endorsement number being issued which can be added to the original certificate by the owner. The start date for eligible QSO's is January 1, 1989. Only members of the UK Six Metre Group may apply.

For any readers who would like a copy of the rules, application form, check sheet, and log sheets for the 6X6 Award, please send me a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) with two units of postage....de KA3B.

GREEK (SV) 6M SITUATION: Ted Collins G4UPS reports that in a QSO with SV1DH at the end of December, Costas informed him that there will be a meeting with the Greek PTT towards the end of January 1991 to discuss the possibilities of 6M permits being issued outside of the Athens area. This will be good news for the SV5 and SV9 operators, a number of whom are just waiting for permission to become active on 6M. It would also mean two new DXCC countries on the band!

SPANISH (EA) 6M SITUATION: Ted Collins also reports that he was told of a recent meeting Spanish hams had with their PTT. Apparently, the Spanish authorities have granted the use of the 6M band in principal. However, future meetings would obviously have to be held to discuss the power limits, frequency spectrum, etc.

ASIAN NEWS

YAØRR AFGHANISTAN: The DX Bulletin which is published by Chod Harris VP2ML reports that Romeo UB5JBB was scheduled to be active as YAØRR through January 20th with YL1WW accompanying him. In addition to HF, 6M would be utilized with frequencies of 50.101 MHz (CW) and 50.150 MHz (SSB). Donations are urgently needed and can be sent to Ed Kritski NT2X. It is reported that their rig is an IC726 with at least 4 elements on 6M.

QSL INFO: Mr. Romeo Stepanenko, P.O. Box 812, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

NORTH POLE 90 EXPEDITION: It was announced recently by the Multiple Sclerosis Society that more than One Million Pounds Sterling had been raised by the sponsorship of the joint Soviet/British North Pole 90 Expedition. Many of the sponsors were radio amateurs. The 6M operation side of the expedition was manned by Lawrence and Morag Howell, UAØ/GB4MSS and UAØ/GB4ICE.

INDIA 6M OPERATION POSSIBLE: This news was received a little late but here goes nonetheless: Peter OH5NQ was scheduled to go to India between January 3-15. He was to take his 6M rig along with him and he was hoping to obtain a 6M operating permit for his stay. The intended callsign was not known, but there was to be 28.885 MHz liaison with QSL's going via Peter's home call.

ISRAELI (4X) 6M SITUATION: The following item appeared in a recent issue of the Chaverim Newsletter as part of an interview with Joseph Obstfeld 4X6KJ, President of the Israel Amateur Radio Club (IARC):

"A number of countries in IARU Region 1 have granted limited access to the 6M band to their hams in the last two or three years. The IARC has requested the Ministry of Communications to grant 6M privileges to a limited number of hams to conduct tests with the eventual hope that all licensees will be granted access. The Ministry has been receptive to the idea, however, there is a problem: Frequencies in that range are used by the military. "We would like to use 6M but we also do not want to interfere with the very real security needs of our small country", Joe said. The Ministry has deferred to the military. Stay tuned for further developments in this arena."

XU1DK DX-PEDITION RESULTS (NOV-DEC 1990): The operation of XU1DK between November 30th and December 6th, 1990 was the first 6M activity from Cambodia since the XU1SS during August 1983. JA's were the only DX worked by XU1DK with the following QSO breakdown: JA1 (88), JA2 (77), JA3 (100), JA4 (32), JA5 (45), JA6 (77), JA7 (12), JA9 (15), JAØ (18). No JA8 area stations were worked. The best opening of the operation took place on November 30th (the first day) when 104 stations were worked starting at 1040Z during a one hour opening. The Kenwood TS680S and 2 element HB9CV 6M yagi were left behind at XU1DK for future use.

QSL INFO: P.O. Box 80, Kojimachi, Tokyo 102-91, Japan

TA1A/5 TURKEY: Ted Collins G4UPS reports that several Italian stations worked a station signing TA1A/5 in grid KM38 back on October 28th, 1990. To date, no further info on this station has been received.

VS6SIX BEACON CUSTODIAN INFO NEEDED: In order to get a 1991 beacon survey form completed for VS6SIX in Hong Kong, I need to know who the beacon operator/custodian is. The call VS6SIX does not appear in the Callbook. Can anyone help me??....de KA3B.

1990 KA3B 6 METER REPORTS: I have just returned from the printer with a limited supply of the entire set of the 1990 KA3B 6 METER REPORTS. For those of you who've just subscribed to the 50 MHz DX Bulletin who would like an entire set of 1990 Reports in a folder (which amounts to 128 pages of DX info, QSL info, equipment news, beacon updates, etc.), please remit \$20.00 payable to Harry Schools. The complete set will be sent via First Class mail (or Air Mail for DX stations). In addition to the Reports, I will also include a 25 page pamphlet concerning the history of 6 meters.

NEWS FROM OCEANIA

AH6Q/MARITIME MOBILE: Carl AH6Q/MM will again be on the westbound circuit from California to the Far East beginning on February 6th, passing out rare grid squares and fields on 6M. On his last such trip, he added a brick and made numerous contacts. However, he was prevented from doing much liaison on 28.885 MHz by a jealous ham on the ship who claimed Carl was causing all sorts of TVI! (Txn NI6E/KH6)

PITCAIRN ISLAND: Jim VR6JR is now back home in the UK. He has been sending out some lovely QSL's for the lucky ones who worked him at VR6. Cards for VR200PI/JR have already been sent out from California.

QSL INFO: Jim Russell G3OKQ, 136 Oyster Lane, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7JQ, England

COCOS (KEELING) OPERATION PLANNED: VK9YJ is due to be activated for a week at the end of March by VK3AWY. Equipment will be an IC575H and M2 9-element yagi. VK3OT may also loan him an amplifier. (Txn NI6E/KH6)

MIDWAY 6M ACTIVITY: Nothing has been heard yet from WH4AAH or WH4AAG, but KG6DX advises that Lee AH4AE is also expected to activate 6M here.

ZL0AAA NEW ZEALAND: The VK4's report working Bob Cooper VP5D using this call on 6M recently. His QTH is somewhere in extreme Northern New Zealand and he plans to be there through March/April, then may turn up in EI before returning to the states. His XYL is said to be using ZL0ADG; their station consists of 100 watts to 3 elements. (Txn NI6E/KH6)

KA0ULV/DU3 PHILIPPINES: I am told that KA0ULV/DU3 is seriously interested in 6M operation and may be QRV soon. No other information was available.

VK8RAS BEACON CUSTODIAN INFO NEEDED: In order to get a 1991 beacon survey form completed for VK8RAS (52.485 MHz) in Alice Springs (PG66), I need to know who the beacon operator/custodian is. The call VK8RAS does not appear in the 1991 Callbook. Can anyone help me?....de KA3B.

A F R I C A N N E W S

CN8ST MOROCCO: When Joel CN2JP (N6AMG) packed up for his flight back to the US on December 7th, he had only managed to work two UK stations on 6M, GJ4ICD and G5KW. However, he has left his TS680S and his dipole for use by Tarik CN8ST. It is reported that plans are being made for AE6H (Joel's QSL Manager) to handle CN8ST's cards. Tarik had his first European opening on December 15th where he worked 20-25 stations in southern G-land. As of December 21st, he had worked 11 countries on 6M.

QSL INFO: Tarik Skiredj, 81 Avenue Okbah, Apt 1, Rabat-Agdal, Morocco

CHAGOS 6M SITUATION: Shel NI6E/KH6 recently spoke with VQ9HW on 28.885 MHz and inquired about the status of the 6M on Chagos. VQ9HW replied that the rig was inoperative. However, VQ9TB was to visit Guam during December and would give any details to Joel KG6DX regarding this situation.

CHAD (TT8) 6M OPERATION POSSIBLE: I have received two unconfirmed reports that an operator whose old callsign was TT8AQ would be returning to Chad for a four month stay. This operator (whose name and new TT8 call are unknown) is to be QRV on 6M (with no 10M liaison) with 70 watts to a 5 element yagi. Hopefully I'll have more information on this by the time the next issue is ready for distribution.

S O U T H A M E R I C A N N E W S

VP8CEX QRV ON 6M: A new station has recently become active on 6M from the Falkland Islands, Martin VP8CEX. It is reported that he has worked into LU and has been heard in W4. More info when I receive it.

PY0FF FERNANDO DE NORONHA: Andre Sampaio PY0FF reports that he is active from grid HI36 with a Yaesu FT757 and FTV700 transverter @ 10 watts and a 5 element wide-spaced yagi. He is usually active on weekdays between 2300-0100Z and on weekends between 1300-1530Z on 50.110 MHz (SSB & CW). Andre requests that all 6M QSL's be sent to him direct and not to his manager W9VA.

QSL INFO: Andre Sampaio, Box 1, 53990 Fernando de Noronha Island, Brazil

SURINAME QSL INFORMATION:

PZ1EL: R. Tia, P.O. Box 9131, Paramaribo, Suriname

PZ1AP: A. Polsbroek, P.O. Box 566, Paramaribo, Suriname

THE 50 MHz DX BULLETIN

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